

globalization, or a sudden transition to democracy — need help in building their own human rights institutions and human rights capacity. Developed countries can also take measures at home that help to stem human rights abuses elsewhere, by cutting off exports of arms to countries riven by internal conflict, or by prosecuting citizens who exploit child prostitutes in other countries, for example.

Conclusion

Building respect for human rights is one of the most challenging tasks facing the international community as we approach the end of the century. We have come a long way, certainly, and that is cause for celebration. But there is still a clear and pressing need for sustained action, bilaterally and multilaterally.

By taking a comprehensive, co-operative and flexible approach, which places human rights within a broader nexus of human security issues and applies the principles of international human rights, we can create the conditions needed to bring the Universal Declaration into the next 50 years with renewed vigour. Above all, we can narrow the gap between the principles that the international community set down in the Declaration half a century ago, and the reality of human rights around the world today.

Thank you.

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